

REMARKS

Applicants, by the amendments presented above and the arguments presented below, have made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art on record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance. Claims 1-9, 21-23, 27-32, 34-39 and 43-64 are currently pending. Claims 47-64 are newly added. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 21-23, 32, 39 and 43 have been amended herein. Claims 10-20, 24-26, 33 and 40-42 have previously been withdrawn from consideration and cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 21, 23, 27-32, 34-39 and 43-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,015,650 to Anderson.

Applicant initially notes that because of the Examiner's withdrawal of the indicated allowability of claims 6 and 8 in view of the newly discovered reference to Anderson, Applicant has amended claims 6 and 8 back to their original form as being dependent upon independent claim 1. Applicant further notes that because of the Examiner's withdrawal of the indicated allowability of claim 23 in view of the newly discovered reference to Anderson, Applicant has amended claim 23 back to its original form as being dependent upon independent claim 21. Applicant further notes that because of the Examiner's withdrawal of the indicated allowability of claim 32 in view of the newly discovered reference to Anderson, Applicant has amended claim 32 back to its original form as being dependent upon dependent claim 31. Applicant further notes that because of the Examiner's withdrawal of the indicated allowability of claim 39 in view of the newly discovered reference to Anderson, Applicant has amended claim 39 back to its original form as being dependent upon dependent claim 38.

Applicant traverses the rejection of independent claims 1, 21 and 43 on the basis that

the tabs (24) of Anderson are considered "protrusions". It is clear from a study of the specification and drawings what is meant by a "protrusion" in Applicant's invention, and that the tabs (24) of Anderson are not the type of "protrusion" described and illustrated by Applicant, namely those which extend outwardly from the cage member.

In view of the foregoing, however, in an effort to speed prosecution of this application, and in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 21 and 43 to require that a generally planar surface is defined and that the "protrusion" extend outwardly from the planar surface. The tabs (24) of Anderson do not extend outwardly from a planar surface of the cage member and, therefore, Applicant states that independent claims 1, 21 and 43 are allowable in view of the prior art of record. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of independent claims 1, 21 and 43 in view of the amendments made thereto.

Claims 2, 3, 6-9, 27-32 and 44 are all ultimately dependent upon independent claim 1. As Applicant states that independent claim 1 as amended is in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 3, 6-9, 27-32 and 44. Applicant notes that minor amendments have been made to claim 3 in view of the amendments made to independent claim 1.

Claims 23, 34-39 and 45 are all ultimately dependent upon independent claim 21. As Applicant states that independent claim 21 as amended is in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 23, 34-39 and 45.

Claim 46 is dependent upon independent claim 43. As Applicant states that independent claim 43 as amended is in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 46.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4, 5 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4,015,650 to Anderson.

Applicant initially notes that because of the Examiner's withdrawal of the indicated allowability of claim 4 in view of the newly discovered reference to Anderson, Applicant has amended claim 4 back to its original form as being dependent upon independent claim 1.

Applicant further notes that because of the Examiner's withdrawal of the indicated allowability of claim 22 in view of the newly discovered reference to Anderson, Applicant has amended claim 22 back to its original form as being dependent upon independent claim 21.

Claims 4 and 5 are both ultimately dependent upon independent claim 1. As Applicant states that independent claim 1 as amended is in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 4 and 5.

Claim 22 is dependent upon independent claim 21. As Applicant states that independent claim 21 as amended is in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 22.

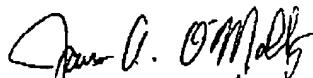
Newly Added Claims

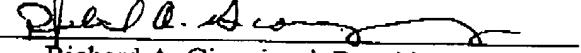
Applicant has added new claims 47-64. Claims 47-64 are generally identical to claims 1-18, respectively, of the parent application, now issued as United States Patent No. 6,692,206, except that claims 47, 53 and 60-64 have been altered compared to claims 1, 7 and 14-18. Specifically, claims 47, 53 and 60-64 include the limitations of a generally planar surface being provided, and that the "protrusion" extend outwardly from the planar surface. Applicant states that the structure and methods of new claims 47-64 are not anticipated and/or

rendered obvious by United States Patent No. 4,015,650 to Anderson or any of the other prior art of record. As such, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of new claims 47-64.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,



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